

Ethan Allen Institute

IDEAS FOR VERMONT'S FUTURE

VERMONT PUBLIC
SERVICE BOARD

2006 MAY 16 A 10: 02

SH
ab
ed
eg
up
df
jr

May 15, 2006

Public Service Board
Drawer 20
Montpelier VT 05620

Re: Energy Efficiency Charge

The Ethan Allen Institute is a 600-member nonprofit organization educating Vermonters on the fundamentals of a free society.

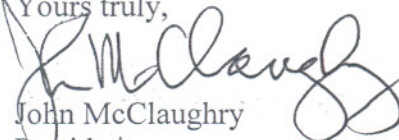
I am writing to express our strongest possible opposition to increasing the energy efficiency charge on the bills of Vermont electric ratepayers.

Vermont has high energy prices. High energy prices stimulate efficiency and conservation. The energy savings from increased efficiency and conservation ought to pay back a ratepayer's wise investment in efficiency and conservation technology.

I have followed this issue for some years, and have discussed the workings of the Energy Efficiency Utility with its Contractor. I have never been able to ascertain any coherent rationale for taxing all ratepayers to provide services to some ratepayers, when the cost-saving results of those services ought to justify the ratepayer's own investment.

Distributing information to educate ratepayers on the advantages of efficiency and conservation is properly within the scope of the Department of Public Service. The present Efficiency Utility program is not. Increasing the tax on ratepayers to from \$18.4 million a year to the \$52.5 million requested by CLF and VPIRG is clearly an unwise and unjustifiable confiscation of peoples' resources to benefit other people who have no valid claim to public subsidies, and should be paying their own way.

Yours truly,


John McClaughry
President